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**Location & Setting**

Hawaii is an island group that is located in the northern Pacific Ocean. It is about 2,400 miles from San Francisco, California. There are 132 islands that make up Hawaii. They were formed by volcanic eruptions over the years. Hawaii (big island), Maui, Kauai, and Molokai are the most mountainous islands.

# Hawaii

## **“The Aloha State”**

Transportation

Honolulu International Airport (HNL) on Oahu is Hawaii's major airport, which is the most common entry point for Hawaii's visitors.

Traveling all around the islands of Hawaii is made easy by the services of shuttles, taxis, and buses. There is also ferry services offered to get from island to island. It is recommended that you may want to rent a car in advance so you may explore Hawaii on your own.

### Places to visit

Hawaii has over 42 major museums and cultural attractions to choose from while staying on the islands. Some of the main attractions you should visit include:

* USS Arizona Memorial of Pearl Harbor
* Polynesian Cultural Center
* Bishop Museum
* Ialoni Palace
* Aloha Tower
* Diamond Head State Monument

## Climate

When is the perfect time to travel to Hawaii? The answer is anytime! During the summer months, between April and November, the temperatures can range from 77 degrees F to 88 degrees F. Summer is considered to have the drier months on the islands while the winter has a cooler climate. Winter has the wetter months, from December to March. At night, the temperature drops about 10 degrees, but only a light jacket would be needed on a cooler evening.

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### Major Islands

The top cities to explore include:

* Honolulu
* Oahu
* Lahaina
* Waikiki
* Kauai
* Hawaii (Bid Island)
* Maui
* Niihau

**Language and Culture**

In Hawaii, the most spoken language is English. Most native-born residents of Hawaiian ancestry speak one of several varieties of Hawaiian pidgin, a lingua franca incorporating elements of Hawaiian, English, and other Asian and Pacific languages. Many immigrants of the islands speak languages of Tagalog, Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish.

Hawaiian chefs believe in using the fresh ingredients found around the islands to make their special cuisines. They use cattle raised on the islands’ upland pastures, fruits and vegetables grown from volcanic soil, and fish from the finest fisheries around the world.

Pineapples and coconuts are a popular fruits that are often used in the ingredients of many top meals served in restaurants.

There are many restaurants in Hawaii, but the best way to experience ethnic food is to attend a luau. It is a celebration and tribute to life. There is dancing, great music, and amazing authentic food.

Kalua pig roasts are a traditional Hawaiian feasts in which tourists must experience. Kalua is a Hawaiian method of cooking in which a hole is dug and fresh vegetables are roasted over extremely hot rocks. Usually a pig is propped over the rocks, or fire, and roasted tenderly for all to enjoy.

#### **Recreations**

There are many different activities to on all of the islands. You can work on your tan at any of the beaches, you can hike at Haleahala National Park, picnic at volcanoes, surf, scuba dive, swim, or explore the history of Hawaii.

Hawaii is the perfect getaway in which you can relax, enjoy shows, hang out on the beach, and sail across the Pacific Ocean searching for whales.

Poipu Beach is perfect for surfing, swimming, shopping, and other leisures.

Kauai has rich, fertile beaches. Also has “Garden Isle”, where celebrities go to vacation. Jurassic Park, King Kong, and Raiders of the Lost Ark were filmed at this spot.

**Entertainment**

There are many shows and performances that one can go to in order get a sense of the culture and history of the life in Hawaii. There are authentic performances in which you can partake in to eat fine cuisines, listen to native music, and to feel the celebration of life. Some of the performances you should check out include:

* Aha Aina - A Royal Hawaiian Luau
* Creation - A Polynesian Journey
* Oahu Sightseeing Tour - Circle Island Tour and Ambassador Buffet at Polynesian Cultural Center
* Gathering of the Kings Luau - Big Island Hawaii
* Molokai, the Center of the Dance